

# ACA IMPLEMENTATION NEWS

UPDATING YOU ON PROGRESS AND AVAILABLE RESOURCES RELATED TO THE  
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

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## In This Issue!

In this issue of *ACA Implementation News*, we will provide important updates from the Social Security Administration, links to the most recent frequently asked question and resources from the Department and information on how to access the most recent PEAK Application Training. This issue also contains the latest enrollment metrics from Connect for Health Colorado and Medicaid.

As a reminder, please send us your ACA implementation questions/suggestions so we can provide timely and relevant information to you. Questions, comments and suggestions should be sent to [ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us](mailto:ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us) for inclusion in upcoming issues of *ACA Implementation News*.

**To sign up for *ACA Implementation News* or the Department's ACA Communication Updates, click [here](#).**

You can also find us on [Facebook](#), Twitter [@COGovHealth](#), [Google+](#) and [YouTube](#).

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## News of Note

### New PEAK Enhancements and Online Training

The latest PEAK enhancements went in to effect on February 23. These enhancements seek to improve the consumer experience and simplify the Medical Assistance application process.

- Application pages are now more dynamic to eliminate gathering unnecessary information from household members who are not applying for benefits
- Asterisks now appear on all required questions, including matching questions to improve Real Time Eligibility determinations
- Adding household members is now more user-friendly and appear at the bottom of the page

To view the latest training webinar by the PEAK Outreach Team, click [here](#). This training is an ideal refresher for Certified Application Assistance Sites and Connect for Health Colorado Health Coverage Guides and Certified Agents and Brokers.

To schedule a personalized training for your organization on the PEAK application contact [PEAKOutreach@bouldercounty.org](mailto:PEAKOutreach@bouldercounty.org).

## Social Security Changes

Beginning August 2014, the Social Security Administration (SSA) will no longer issue Social Security number printouts in field offices. Individuals who need proof of their Social Security number and cannot find their card, will need to apply for a replacement card.

In addition, beginning October 2014, SSA field offices will stop providing benefit verification letters, except in emergency situations. Benefit verifications are available online, and can be obtained anytime by registering for a *my Social Security* account located at: [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount), or by calling 1-800-772-1213.

For more information please visit the SSA's resource page: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/thirdparty/whatsnew.html>.

## Help Improve the HCPF Website

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing website will be changing for the better – and we need your help. Please take our brief website survey and give us your feedback about what the site does well, what it could do better, and what you'd like to see in a new, client-focused website. **The deadline to complete the survey is TOMORROW, March 7, 2014.**

Thank you in advance for being an important part of the site's improvements!



*Improving health care access and outcomes for the people we serve  
while demonstrating sound stewardship of financial resources.  
[Colorado.gov/hcpf](http://Colorado.gov/hcpf)*

## Collaborating to Cover More Coloradans

### *Connect for Health Colorado & Colorado Medicaid Enrollment Update*

This week Connect for Health Colorado and Colorado Medicaid released their latest enrollment metrics. Between October 1, 2013, and March 1, 2014, more than 220,000 Coloradans have signed up or been approved for health care coverage. Since October 1, 2013, Medicaid has enrolled 135,560 individuals under the Medicaid expansion. Connect for Health Colorado has enrolled 84,881 Coloradans in private health insurance coverage since the beginning of open enrollment.

There are 27 days left to sign up for commercial health insurance through Connect for Health Colorado. March 15 is the next deadline for commercial health insurance coverage that starts April 1. Open enrollment ends March 31. From April 1, Coloradans will not be able to get commercial health insurance, unless they have a qualifying life event, until 2015. Enrollment for Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) is year-round.

Category	Total	Medicaid	Connect for Health Colorado (commercial health insurance)
Coloradans signed up for health insurance	220,441	135,560	84,881
Customer Accounts		124,512 (from PEAK)	201,715
Daily Website Visitors (average daily)		4,247	6,738

For more Medicaid enrollment metrics, including by gender, age and county of residence click [here](#). For additional metrics from Connect for Health Colorado click [here](#).

## Update Your PEAK Quick Links by March 16

The web address to access the PEAK homepage has been replaced. PEAK partners and users should note that [www.peak.state.co.us](http://www.peak.state.co.us) has been replaced and will no longer link to the PEAK website beginning **March 16**. Please make sure that you are using one of the following two links to access the PEAK landing page:

- <http://coloradopeak.force.com> or
- <http://colorado.gov/PEAK>
- 

For more information and screenshots click [here](#). If you have questions regarding the decommissioning of the old PEAK website please contact [CBMS.Liaison@state.co.us](mailto:CBMS.Liaison@state.co.us).

## Request for Medicaid or CHP+ Client Stories

The Department needs personal stories about how Medicaid or Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) has made a positive impact on covered clients. Client stories can help the Department educate other Coloradans about the benefits of health insurance coverage and the programs the Department administers.

With a client's permission, the Department may also use their story when talking with the media or elected officials.

**We will not share a client's story without their written permission.**

For more information or if you know of a client that may be willing to share their personal story with us visit:

**[Colorado.gov/HCPF/ShareYourStory](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ShareYourStory)**

## ACA Communications Webinar Online

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing, Division of Insurance and Connect for Health Colorado released a joint communications webinar. The webinar discusses how community partners can assist in reaching the uninsured and begin to educate consumers on how to use their coverage. The webinar also provides an overview of the resources available for consumers, partners and providers about the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid expansion, Connect for Health Colorado and the changes to private health insurance.

The recorded webinar can be found on [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources) or by clicking [here](#). You can also download the slides by clicking [here](#).

You can submit your questions following the webinar to:

[ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us](mailto:ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us)

## CICP Reminder and Fact Sheet

Individuals currently enrolled in Colorado Indigent Care Program (CICP) may be newly eligible for Medicaid or for new financial assistance to help purchase health insurance through the Connect for Health Colorado marketplace. Applications for both Medicaid and Connect for Health Colorado are being accepted now. The deadline for applications for financial assistance to help purchase private health insurance through the Connect for Health Colorado Marketplace is March 31, 2014.

It is important to convey to current and prospective CICP clients that the program is not health insurance, but rather provides limited, *discounted* health care services to low income individuals at participating providers. CICP *partially* compensates participating providers who care for the uninsured and underinsured at or below 250% of the Federal Poverty Level. **CICP is still available for those who qualify but current clients and applicants should be made aware that CICP is not a health insurance. CICP does not satisfy the requirement for most individuals to have health insurance beginning January 2014.** For more information on the mandate visit [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov). For more information about CICP click [here](#) or [here](#).

## 12 Month Continuous Eligibility for Children

The Department has begun to implement its twelve month continuous eligibility policy for Medicaid or Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+) children under the age of 19 starting March 1. Continuous eligibility ensures children remain enrolled in either Medicaid or CHP+ for 12 months, regardless if their household experiences a change in income or size.

Twelve-month continuous eligibility will help to reduce the movement of children on and off Medicaid or CHP+ due to temporary fluctuations in income, helping to eliminate gaps in coverage.

Continuous eligibility will be applied to all children who are approved, redetermined or active as of March 1, 2014. Continuous eligibility for the child will extend from March 1, 2014 to the child's current redetermination date. Once the child is redetermined, they will have 12 months of continuous eligibility from the redetermination date.

Changes to household income identified by the Income and Eligibility Verification system (IEVS) will not result in action being taken on the eligibility of children in the household for income changes reported within the 12 months of continuous coverage. Income changes may still impact eligibility for adult household members.

For more information on continuous eligibility please see the Department's frequently asked questions [here](#) or go to [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources).

## Medicaid Eligibility for Former Foster Care Youth

Qualifying Former Foster Care Youth are now eligible for Medicaid -- regardless of their income -- up to age 26. Effective January 1, 2014, Medicaid is available for former foster care youth who were in Colorado foster care at ages 18, 19, 20 or 21 and were receiving Medicaid. This rule does not apply to former foster care youth who emancipated out of foster care prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. Additionally, youth who were adopted out of foster care are not eligible for this extended Medicaid coverage.

It is important to note that Medicaid is in most cases the payer of last resort. If a qualifying former foster care youth has other insurance, it should be billed first.

Former Foster Care Youth have been sent Proof of Medicaid Eligibility letters to their last known address from the state Trails data system. The letters include instructions to providers on billing procedures using the letters.

**We Need Your Help! The Department encourages outreach workers to prompt Former Foster Care Youth to update their address with their county of residence to receive important information.**

For more information about Former Foster Care Youth Medicaid Eligibility, please see the Department's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources).





## Resources

### Medicaid Benefits Starting 2014

Important information has been released about the Medicaid benefits for 2014. This [fact sheet](#) provides an overview of the benefits for current and newly eligible Medicaid clients beginning January 2014. You can also find this information on [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources).

### ACA Resources for Health Care Providers

The Department's [ACA Resources for Health Care Providers](#) page is designed to provide all health care providers key information about health care reform. You can view the resources at [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ProviderACAInfo](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ProviderACAInfo).

### Resources for Brokers and Agents

The Department has developed resources for Agents and Brokers, including a [webinar](#) and [slides](#) on PEAK, [tips for completing](#) and a description of [where to go for help](#). You can view these new resources at [Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources](http://Colorado.gov/HCPF/ACAResources).

### Paper Application Training Online Now

The Department has just released a new online training on the paper application that guides individuals through the paper application, answers common questions and provides you tools. Access the training at [traincolorado.com](http://traincolorado.com) or by clicking [here](#). Questions should be directed to [patricia.montoya@state.co.us](mailto:patricia.montoya@state.co.us).

## Reminders

### PEAK Technological Support

Community-based organizations and consumers can contact [CBMS.Help@state.co.us](mailto:CBMS.Help@state.co.us) to report technical issues, errors and glitches with PEAK. Please include as much information as possible in your description of the problem. **If you are county staff, you can submit a service ticket through the CBMS portal.**

### Frequently Asked Questions

[Colorado.gov/Health](http://Colorado.gov/Health) is your resource for information about the Affordable Care Act, the Medicaid expansion, Connect for Health Colorado and how to apply for coverage. For a complete list of consumer FAQs click [here](#). Still have questions? Send your questions about Colorado's implementation of the health reform law to: [ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us](mailto:ACAImplementation@hcpf.state.co.us).

### HealthColorado

[HealthColorado](#) is a state program that helps people in Medicaid choose a health plan. Clients can call *HealthColorado* to find out about Medicaid health plans. In Denver: 303-839-2120; Outside of Denver: 1-888-367-6557; TTY: 1-888-876-8864  
Hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (closed state holidays).

The *HealthColorado* number is not for information on Medicaid benefits or to find out if you qualify. To find out more about Medicaid benefits click [here](#). To find out the status of a submitted Medical Assistance (Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus*) application click [here](#).